

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this Amendment, which amends claims 1, 9, 16, and 20, and adds new claims 24-27, claims 1-27 will be pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumori (U.S. Patent No. 6,509,989 B1) and claims 4, 5, 7, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumori in view of Jorgensen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,662,180). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Claims 1-8

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumori. Applicants submit that Tsumori does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1, as amended. For example, Tsumori fails to disclose or suggest wherein the optical signal is time-divided for different receivers by bending the signal at different angles with the time-dividing device at different time slots corresponding to the different receivers, wherein each receiver receives the section corresponding to the time slot for the receiver, wherein the section of the bent optical signal includes information just for the receiver.

Tsumori discloses a system that transmits signals of two different frequencies, a 1.3 μm band signal and a 1.55 μm band signal. The two signals are reflected differently based on the frequency of the signal. Accordingly, Tsumori does not disclose or suggest bending a signal at different angles at different time slots that correspond to different receivers. Rather, the reflection is based on the different frequencies. For example, Tsumori discloses a first dielectric film 31 that transmits 50% of light of the first frequency band while reflecting substantially 50% thereof and transmits substantially 100% of light of the second frequency band. *See Tsumori*, col. 3, lines 58-62. A second dielectric film 32 transmits substantially 100% of light of the first frequency band and reflects substantially 100% of light of the second frequency band. *See Tsumori*, col. 3, line 66-col. 4, line 2. A third dielectric film 33 reflects substantially 100% of light of the second frequency band. *See Tsumori*, col. 4, lines 6-8. A fourth dielectric film 34

transmits substantially 100% of light of the second frequency band. *See Tsumori*, col. 4, lines 12-14. Accordingly, Tsumori discloses reflecting and transmitting light based on the different frequencies and does not disclose or suggest bending a signal at different angles at different time slots.

Tsumori does mention that transmission and reception are alternately switched by time division to avoid interference therebetween. *See Tsumori*, col. 1, lines 42-45 and col. 2, lines 47-52. The switching of transmission and reception based on time division discloses that for a certain time, reception of signals is received and for a certain time, signals are transmitted. This does not disclose or suggest bending a signal at different angles at different time slots corresponding to different receivers.

Also, claim 1 recites that the section of the optional signal includes just information for the receiver. As discussed above, two frequencies are included in a signal and are reflected to different receivers based on their frequency. Thus, the signal in Tsumori includes both frequencies of information. In contrast, claim 1 recites that a section of the optical signal includes information just for the receiver.

Embodiments of the present invention provide many advantages. As recited by the claims, an optical signal is time divided for different receivers. By bending the signal at different angles with a time-dividing device at different time slots corresponding to the receivers, a receiver can receive the section that corresponds to the receiver at a time slot. Thus, the receiver receives the section of the bent optic signal that includes information just for the receiver. This provides a cost effective and efficient system that time divides the optical signal.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-8 and 24 depend from claim 1 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. These claims also recite additional nonobvious and novel features. For example, claim 24 recites wherein the section of the bent optical signal includes substantially all of optical signal transmitted by the optical transmitter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-8 and 24.

Claims 9-15 and 25

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumori. Applicants submit that Tsumori does not disclose or suggest wherein the optical signal is time divided for different receivers by bending the signal at different angles with the catadioptric device at different time slots corresponding to different receivers, wherein each receiver receives the section corresponding to the receiver, wherein the section of the bent optical signal includes information just for the receiver.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9. Claims 10-15 and 25 depend from claim 9 and derive patentability at least therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 10-15 and 25.

Claims 16-19 and 26

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumori. Applicants submit that Tsumori does not disclose or suggest bending the optical signal at a plurality of angles at a plurality of time slots, wherein sections of the optical signal correspond to different receivers, wherein the optical signal is bent at different angles at different time slots so receivers corresponding to the section can receive the section, wherein the section of the bent optical signal includes information just for the receiver. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16. Claims 17-19 and 26 depend from claim 16 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom.

Claims 20-23 and 27

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumori. Applicants submit that Tsumori does not disclose or suggest time-dividing the optical signal at a plurality of time slots, wherein sections of the optical signal correspond to different receivers, wherein the optical signal is bent at different angles at different time slots so receivers corresponding to the section can receive the section, wherein the bent optical signal includes information just for the receiver.

Appl. No. 10/020,310
Amdt. dated May 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2005

PATENT

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20. Claims 21-23 and 27 depend from claim 20 and derive patentability at least therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21-23 and 27.

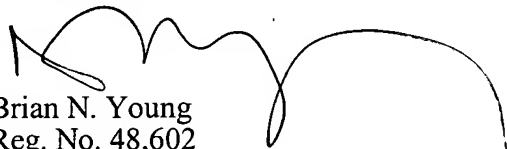
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/16/05


Brian N. Young
Reg. No. 48,602

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
BNY:tc
60453838 v1